

Inventory Number \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTER OF HISTORIC KANSAS PLACES--COVER SHEET

Name of Property Women's Civic Center Club 155-0660-0769

Location 925 N. Main Street  
(street and number)

Hutchinson  
(city, town, or vicinity location)

N 10' Lot 9 and all of Lots 10,11, and 12  
(legal description)

Reno  
(County)

Owner of Property City of Hutchinson

City Hall  
(street and number)

Hutchinson, Kansas (RENO) 67501  
(city, town, county)

National Register Status:

date approved for nomination to the National Register by Kansas Historic  
Sites Board of Review N/A

date entered in National Register N/A

Description: See attached sheets.  
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The Women's Civic Center Club House (c. 1887) is a modified cube form with projecting gabled bays. Although it retains its overall form it is covered with aluminum siding and no longer retains its original windows.

To make the Emerson Carey gift of the house at 925 North Main adequate for a club house was a challenge which the 143 new members accepted with delight.

A large meeting room was achieved by removing three partitions downstairs to combine two small rooms with a larger one and remodeling a clothes closet in the southwest corner to provide a cloak room opposite the bathroom.

At the same time a heavy girder was placed across the ceiling to strengthen the house and support the second floor. Also a raised platform on part of the west end was built. Later a red velvet stage curtain was suspended from the entire length of the new girder. Not only did this curtain serve to conceal and/or reveal the stage, it also provided two small dressing rooms or entrance ways to the stage.

The far east side of the interior was left as it had always been; it made a spacious lobby. A small room on the south off this lobby was opened by enlarging the doorway to utilize double glass paned doors. This space was furnished as a sitting room for the couple who became the executive secretary and caretaker.

The second floor at this time was remodeled by removing a partition between two bedrooms on the south side. This area was furnished with quartet tables

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and chairs to serve as a tearoom for club members. A space (across the hall) which may have been a clothes closet became an efficiency kitchen.

By 1975, prudence decreed a rearrangement of the facilities. The theatre-like rows of joined folding chairs were discarded from the meeting room downstairs and the quartet table and chairs replaced them. The kitchen was moved to the old pantry at the west end of the first floor. (These arrangements provided highly satisfactory and remain the same today.) *Is this sentence correct?*

Soon thereafter an archway opened the entrance between the two small rooms on the east upstairs and those rooms and the long south room were carpeted. This action consolidated and provided much larger living quarters for the executive secretary and caretaker.

With the increase in utility prices, the club members sought ways to improve the insulation of the Club house; therefore an insulation layer under aluminum siding was placed over the exterior narrow clapboarding. At the same time two windows were eliminated on the north side.

New wooden stairs were added to the front and back entrances and wrought iron balastrades were placed on both steps and at the step down to the street sidewalk level to insure greater safety.

Various repairs which have been made as replacing rotted out wood particularly on the west end of the building and re-roofing from time to time have not changed the structure.

Significance See attached sheets.

Form prepared by Leota Stevens (SPONSOR)

Date May, 1988

This property was approved for listing in the Register of Historic Kansas Places  
by the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review on October 29, 1988

I hereby certify that this property is included in the Register of Historic  
Kansas Places.

Ramon Power  
State Historic Preservation Officer

October 29, 1988  
Date

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The Women's Civic Center Club (c. 1887-1888) is being nominated to the Register of Historic Kansas Places for its historical association with women's clubs in Hutchinson. The building was constructed by John R. Campbell in 1887-1888 for the Leidigh family, who sold the house to Emerson Carey in 1914.

The Women's Civic Center Club was born sixty-four years ago at an enthusiastic meeting of Hutchinson women held at the Chamber of Commerce.

It was the new central club of women which took over the fine gift by Senator Emerson Carey of his residence property at the corner of Tenth and Main which he gave to the City of Hutchinson to be held in trust for the women of Hutchinson and community for a club house and civic center.

There were one hundred forty-three women present and all of them signed applications for membership in the new organization as charter members.

Mayor Walter F. Jones presided and he introduced Senator Carey who was given a splendid greeting by the women. Judge C.N. Williams, attorney for Senator Carey, read the proposition by which Senator Carey gave the property to the women of Hutchinson. The deed was dated November 13, 1924.

For sixty-four years the women have held weekly meetings at the club. The programs are devoted to art, music, literature, and social science.

At one time there were close to seven hundred members. In 1926-27, eight clubs, seventy-five percent of whose members were members of Women's Civic

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Center, used the club house as their meeting place. These were Mother's Club, Women's Club, Alpha Delphin, Qui Vive Reading Club, New Century Club, Domestic Science Club, Schubert Music Club, and Hutchinson Music Club. Presently, American Association of University Women hold their monthly meetings here, also.

The club functions today very much as it did in earlier years. In the past, members have enjoyed the talents of many outstanding artists and speakers. Mrs. E.E. Yaggy, first president, renowned violinist and suffragist, gave a program each year, as did the Hutchinson Music Club. Among the early names who gave programs for the Women's Civic Center were such artists as Thurlow Liurance; Birger Sandzen, and his daughter Margaret Sandzen; Victor Murdock; May Williams Ward; Zula Bennington Green, Topeka columnist; John Ise and C.C. Isley, authors and historians; Henry J. Allen; Walter Huxman; Elmer Copley of Lindsborg Messiah; and Nova Trimble Ashley, whose short verse appears in nearly every issue of Good Housekeeping.

Besides making decisions and seeing that work was done, Civic Center officers have always had the responsibility of raising the money to pay for the insurance and upkeep of this fine home. Truly, this generous gift of Emerson Carey is a heritage worthy of preserving for the Hutchinson Community. Over the years it has been used by many people.